



VOL. XXXII.

AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 29, 1864.

NO. 42.

Maine Farmer.

ESTABLISHED 1832.
S. L. BOARDMAN, Editor.

Our Home, Our Country, and our Brother Man.

Agricultural Fairs in Maine—1864.

[We publish below a list of those Agricultural Societies which hold exhibitions this fall, with the time and place, so far as they have come to our knowledge.]

County Exhibitions this Week.

WEST PENOBSCOT, at East Corinth, Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 27th and 28th.
Kennebec, at Waterville, Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 27th and 28th.

County Exhibitions next Week.

FRANKLIN, at Dover, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 5th and 6th.
Kennebec, at Waterville, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 5th and 6th.
FRANKLIN, at Franklin, Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 4th and 5th.

Provincial Exhibitions.

NEW BRUNSWICK, at Fredericton, Oct. 4th—7th.
UPPER CANADA, at Hamilton, Sept. 26th—29th.

Jottings at the Springfield Fair—No. 2.

DUTCH OR HOLSTEIN CATTLE. One very interesting feature of the cattle show, and one not "in the hills," was a fine display of Dutch or Holstein cattle from the herd of Mr. Winthrop W. Cheney of Belmont, Mass. Mr. Cheney has, from time to time, imported these cattle from Holland. They are the deep milkers of that country, and are the breed which has rendered the Dutch dairies celebrated the world over. They are a large kind of cattle—longer in fact than the Short-horns, but more loosely made. Mr. Cheney has had one that weighed 3,200 pounds. One of the cows on the ground weighed 1,200 pounds. She is a great milker, having given more than 1,700 of milk during the month of last June.

Those who have rich pastures and wish to produce large quantities of milk, will find these cattle useful to them. It is however, doubtful, in our mind whether for all things being equal, in our mixed better for this purpose than the Ayrshires, while these last can be kept on shorter pastures and in much less room than the giant Dutch cattle. We are glad to say that our enterprising friend, T. S. Lang of North Vassalboro', bought a pair of them at a pretty high figure, so that we shall soon have a trial of them in Maine.

GRADES OR NATIVES. There was an enumeration in the premium list of a class entitled, "grades or natives," and several cattle were entered for the premiums under that head. Now we think the term natives, meaning thereby the distinction of the breeds of cattle reared many years ago, before any importations of distinct breeds were made, may be well given up. We doubt if there are any now to be found that have not more or less blood of some of the imported breeds in their veins. Thirty-seven entries were made in this class, divided among Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut, and there were some very pretty cattle among them.

MILK COWS. Only four entries were made in this class, mostly from the neighborhood. There ought to have been ten times that number from Springfield alone. The few exhibited were very good.

WORKING OXEN. We were disappointed in regard to the number of entries of working oxen. The whole number, including three-year-old steers was but twenty-one. Why? Some of our town shows don't count as well as others, both in numbers and quality. We hope the ox-power of New England will not be guaged by that part of the show at Springfield. This immense array of oxen was divided between Massachusetts, Vermont and Connecticut. Where was Maine in this contest? There was there, but not quite so public a manner as we could have wished—owing to her modesty, we suppose—as Artemus Ward says—modesty is what ails 'er."

In a tent, as a side show, we saw the mammoth oxen of Mr. Grant of Acton, Maine, and a fine pair of oxen they were too; smooth and compactly built, pretty evenly matched, and weighing about 3,400 pounds. Maine had but one pair of oxen there, but they were oxen such as the children of the Auntings would like to have driven in their milking days.

FAIR CATTLE. There was some good beef there, but nothing very astonishing. Six entries, about equally divided between Massachusetts, Vermont and Connecticut. If T. S. Lang had sent up his Short-horn cow, Lalla Rookh, he would have shown them an animal that is fat, and Maine would have borne away the honors on tallies.

So much for the cattle show. It was a good show, and was greater in numbers than the committee of arrangements anticipated, for they had to add many pens for the hour for opening the show had arrived. But it was not what the six New England States out to have brought out. There was evidently a "laying back" among the farmers of each State to what the others would bring out, and to discover the other's strength. We hope they have found out by this time, and will not be willing to come on full breast next year, each willing to meet the others in full and fair competition. Should this be done, there could be a show that would fairly illustrate the strength and value of the stock interest of New England combined.

HORSES. The horse fraternity were out in great numbers, and the several New England States were more equally represented in this department than any other. The number of entries, counting all the classes, were nearly two hundred. This includes all the varieties, from the 2-40 to the slow draft. Rhode Island hove away the palm for splendid teams of draft horses, and males owned by the Messrs. Sprague's, and Maine won the laurels for speed in the person of Gen. Knox.

We had no chance to watch the trials of speed, our time being taken up with committee duties; but we did steal a half hour to witness the first heat of Gen. Knox in the contest. The Maine boys felt no little solicitude in regard to it, because there was some boasting what other horses would do, and because we knew that Knox was taken from his stable, where he had been exhausting work for the past season, and came upon the ground without the least preparation for such trials, and had to compete with those that had been in hand, preparing for the heats nearly the whole summer. The first heat was sufficiently to settle the question in our minds, and we went

about our business, satisfied he would win the whole, which he did. He wins, both by the speed that is in him, and by his honesty. He moves right along about his business; no fretting or breaking or losing time by cantering and teetering about, as did the others. The triumph was fairly won, and the reputation of Maine horses in general, and of Gen. Knox in particular, was wonderfully in the minds of the immense crowd that had gathered to see the greatest trot of the show.

SLEEP AND SWINE. We don't know as there is any affinity between man and pork, or wool and bristles; or any great similarity between the gentle and confiding sheep, and the fractious and rancorous hog; and yet the pens of these two kinds of domestic animals are generally placed side by side on the show grounds, and they are classed in juxtaposition on the programme. There were some very good porkers there of the Chester breed, a few from Vermont, and the balance from the neighborhood of the grounds; nothing very extra. The sheep, however, were more numerous. Vermont came out pretty strong with her thousand dollar Merino bucks, and five hundred dollar lambs. Good sheep of the kind, and well trained withal. Never fear that a Vermont does not know how to show up his sheep; and, when he has done it, never fear that he doesn't know how to ask a price for the animal that will make a "greenhorn" stare. We yield to the Green Mountain boys the crown of sheepish glory, and are willing to erect to their memory a towering monument of golden fleeces, surmounted by a triple wreath of rams' horns; and we are willing too, that they should have those horns until the walls of all anti-animal Jerichos in the Union shall fall flat, and allow them to come in and establish their flocks upon the ruins. They will do it if anybody can. Other States are doing well with improved Merinos, especially Maine and New Hampshire, but if you enquire carefully about the pedigree of our best Merinos, you find yourself in a Green Mountain barn-yard in a very brief space of time back from the animal in question.

Good specimens of long-wools were exhibited from Vermont, Connecticut and Massachusetts, while Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire brought forward excellent samples of South Down or middle wools.

POULTRY. Vermont and Massachusetts ruled the roost in the poultry line. The show was good, but not as numerous as we have seen at State shows heretofore. The hen fever has gone down lower than it ought. The number of entries including all varieties, from duckling to shanghai, was 107, and this included all the prizes of the show. Our attention will be next turned to Agricultural Products—Implementations, &c., &c.

Observe the Farmer's Holiday. The list of Agricultural Societies whose exhibitions take place this fall—which has been kept standing for several weeks at the head of our leading columns—has been quite large, and shows a considerable degree of enterprise upon the part of those who have the management of these societies. Considering the disturbed condition of our country, which pervades to a greater or less degree every corner of our land, and the almost exclusive intent of the public mind in topics connected with the war—we think these societies have been well in bringing out their premium lists in such a liberal and far-sighted manner, and in this they deserve the thanks of every friend of agricultural improvement in the State. We have every reason to believe that these exhibitions will be well attended and that they will be generously contributed to. The local press throughout the State have been earnest in their appeals to the people to attend the exhibitions, and also contribute thereto, and from an article in the *Ellsworth American* we take the remarks which follow. The suggestion in regard to assigning certain portions of the grounds to each town and by this means get up a show upon the plan of "international exhibitions" is a good one.

"We have repeatedly urged upon our people the many advantages to be derived from these annual gatherings, and have, in the name of the Society, invited all to contribute something to make the Show and Fair creditable to the County. These invitations have been taken in a kindly spirit and many have responded. But while a respectable number, each year, contribute something, and manifest a commendable spirit and spend their time and money in getting up a respectable Show and Fair, there are others that treat the matter as a foreign affair and think they have nothing more to do with it than to attend and bestow ungenerous criticisms in particular departments and to find fault generally. For the future, let each farmer, mechanic and citizen generally, consider that he has a personal interest in these annual fairs. Such an interest as will lead him to wish it all success, and to contribute something to make it successful."

If we had the ear of the Trustees, in the future, we would inaugurate some new features, in the programme. Some how we would contrive to have little more variety of goods than what are shown in the tables of the Hall should be allotted off to towns and these towns, especially notified that they were to make a town exhibition of their farm products. Have these places properly labelled, so that the visitor should notice what each town does and what rank it takes in the county. So also, allot to prominent farmers and mechanics certain places for their exhibition.

In this way towns and individuals would feel that they have a particular and personal interest in making a respectable show. Give the town that makes the best exhibition a handsome premium. This to apply to stock as well as farm products. In other words, let the towns get up a healthy competition among themselves, through the agency of the Society.

Grapes and Wine. We are under obligations to Mr. Thomas Herbert, of Concord, for some fine bunches of grapes of the Concord variety, and also for a bottle of wine one year old, manufactured by Mr. H. H. boys felt no little solicitude in regard to it, because there was some boasting what other horses would do, and because we knew that Knox was taken from his stable, where he had been exhausting work for the past season, and came upon the ground without the least preparation for such trials, and had to compete with those that had been in hand, preparing for the heats nearly the whole summer. The first heat was sufficiently to settle the question in our minds, and we went

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Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

"Value of Poultry."

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Under the above head in the *American Agriculturist*, the profits of one hundred hens for the year 1863, as shown by J. C. Thompson, Staten Island, N. Y., amounts to \$121.87. He states that the results would have been more favorable but for the loss of several hens stolen, and the eggs on which they were setting, which deprived him of early layers to fill up the place of those killed and of the non-layers during the moulting season.

In connection with the above, J. C. Thompson says: "Experience satisfies me that a good stock of young poultry, ninety-five or one hundred hens and five cocks, well cared for, will produce ten thousand eggs per year, weighing 1,250 pounds, 250 chicks, averaging two and a half pounds each, or 625 pounds, making a total of 1,875 pounds, besides keeping the original stock good. It will take six pretty good sized hogs to give the same number of pounds of food, and that of inferior quality compared with poultry and eggs, besides much more heavy labor, expense and trouble."

Of the above the editor of that paper remarks: "We give Mr. Thompson's statements and estimates as furnished, but caution the reader against these as a basis for calculating profits. Thus: he estimates for ninety-five hens, 10,000 eggs and 250 chicks, which would generally require 400 to 500 more eggs, if we allow for loss in hatching and chickening, and for the loss of the 250 chicks, would require twenty hens at least three months, equivalent to five hens for a year. This leaves ninety hens to produce 10,500 eggs, 117 chicks, or a netting of twelve eggs for every hen in about five weeks throughout the year. This is sometimes exceeded, but cannot be depended upon by any means. One-half or two-thirds of this will generally be near the mark."

The *American Agriculturist* is justly regarded as a high toned, scientific, and in the main, reliable journal, but I would guess that its editor looks more after the flowers, fruits, vegetables, and the like, than the stock raising part of the business, or, if he keeps both, he may be in this respect like many other less noted individuals, who keep no account of their expense and income. These last, however, are the things which you, or how much their income exceeds their expense. If he has the best varieties that can be found, he can hardly estimate what they will do in the country where they have all out doors to roam, and where they are not confined in a pen, but can be allowed them in the metropolitan. My idea is that the flock of hens that will not do more than "one-half or two-thirds" of what J. C. Thompson estimates, is not a very good flock, and with as the cow which does not give a satisfactory yield of milk—passed over to the butcher. By a calculation of J. C. Thompson's estimate, the editor of the *Agriculturist* makes it necessary to a hen to produce 12 eggs, and nothing else to do but eat and play, which he thinks "cannot be depended upon by any means."

We kept during the year 1862, thirty-two hens. In addition to raising several broods of chickens, we raised 324 young ones, gave five dollars per hen, keeping no account of the loss of the 102 eggs, or 141 chicks, in addition to hatching and "nursing."

We commenced the present year with ninety-five hens, and have since had 17 more, and have had some laid and a few eggs. Having sold some and bought a few, our number has been a little irregular, the 102 being reduced to ninety-five. I bought one of the best of the fifth month, and on the 1st of the ninth month, to which time I reckon, the stock numbered ninety, averaging as nearly as I can judge 100 for the time. These last, however, were not all fresh, but were made up of the first and second broods, and were, making no allowance for their time of hatching and taking care of four or five broods of chickens. In 1863 we kept sixty-five hens and 17 cocks, and had 102 eggs, and 141 chicks, in addition to hatching and "nursing."

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trouble the day as he pleases. A crib thus made, sixty feet long, will accommodate one hundred and twenty sheep to eat comfortably.

One advantage of a crib of this kind, is, a strong sheep cannot very well rob a weak one after they take their place to eat. Another is, if he has food on a poor sheep in his flock, after they are fed and have taken their place, he can go inside with a dish of corn or oats and look after and see where the poor or feeble one are located, and drop a handful of feed under its nose and its neighbor on either side don't know anything about it, if they do they cannot rob the poor and feeble.

I have used a crib of this kind for a number of years and like it much, and so much that it would pay to make one every year rather than not have one.

Yours respectfully, R. S. RICH.

Thorndike, Sept. 12, 1864.

For the Maine Farmer.

Manuring Land with Green Crops.

Having a ridge of land which I did not think in sufficiently good order to lay down, I sowed on oats, and when in the milk, I plowed them under, and sowed a second crop of corn. Some of my neighbors told me that the oats would poison the land so it would never produce anything again. I have mowed the piece six times, and this year it gave me a fine crop of corn, and a neighbor's field just over the wall, on the same ridge, which was laid down two years later, did not cut this year, and never has more than two-thirds as much. For one I think it pays.

Quis.

For the Maine Farmer.

Information Wanted.

I want information in regard to preparing to make maple sugar. I wish to know about building the arched and how high to set the pans from the side of the hill, and how to get the sap, and what they cost per pound, and where I can purchase them. Will some of our experienced sugar makers, or those who do not, please answer and oblige a subscriber who thinks northern farmers ought to make their own sugar.

M. M.

Agricultural Miscellany.

Science and Practice.

I remember once, in company with a crowd of interested auditors, listening to a justly distinguished pomologist, who in the course of his peroration in praise of scientific study, suggested the great advantage of analyzing all the products of the farm, and the different soils under culture, that they might be minutely adjusted each to each. Of the worthy old gentleman never did say a thing; and (being a shrewd man, never mind, yet) it seemed not a bad thing to say. The lesser pomologists all wagged their heads approvingly, but without any serious thought of following the advice; the country gentleman, who I thought, and I believe, was a true one, looked on in approval; and the only doubt expressed was if the faces of certain earnest, honest old farmers, who had already paid their twenty-five dollars for a syllabus, to the present Professor Messers, and (being a shrewd man, never mind, yet) it seemed not a bad thing to say. 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